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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 29 December 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué and Muscat declaration adopted at the sixteenth summit of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, between Rajab 12th and 14th 1416 (4-6 December 1995) under the chairmanship of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, in all official languages, under the items entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States", "Question of Palestine", "The situation in the Middle East", "Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait", "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" and "Sustainable development and international economic cooperation", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Salim Bin Mohammed AL-KHUSSAIBY
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Final communiqué

In response to the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman, the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council held its sixteenth session in Oman from 4 to 6 December 1995, under the presidency of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman and with the participation of the following:

His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates;

His Highness Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of the National Guard of Saudi Arabia;

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of Qatar;

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

His Majesty and Their Highnesses expressed their satisfaction at the favourable and reassuring reports on the health of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia and their sincere wishes that God might grant him abundant health and wellbeing and preserve him from all evil and adversity.

The Supreme Council availed itself of the occasion of Oman's celebration of its twenty-fifth glorious national holiday to present sincere congratulations to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, Sultan of Oman, and to the fraternal Omani people, commending the great achievements realized in the various economic, developmental and cultural fields during His Majesty's reign and praying God Almighty to preserve the Sultanate of Oman and its leader to enjoy yet greater bounty, security and stability.

The Supreme Council also presented its compliments and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and to its people on the occasion of their twenty-fourth glorious national day, wishing the United Arab Emirates lasting progress and prosperity.

The Supreme Council presented to His Highness Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain, its compliments and congratulations on the occasion of the glorious national holiday of Bahrain, asking the Lord Almighty to give Bahrain and its people long-lasting good fortune and prosperity.

The Supreme Council heard the report submitted by His Highness Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Amir of Bahrain, President of the fifteenth session of the Supreme Council, on the formulation of a comprehensive view of the general position of the Gulf Cooperation Council in the light of new

developments and such mechanisms and approaches as might be required for the joint work of the Gulf Cooperation Council in order to meet challenges and implement resolutions to enhance the Council's work and meet the hopes and aspirations of its peoples.

The Council commended the ideas and views set forth in the report for promoting coordination and cooperation among Council States in the political, economic and security fields, for the purpose of realizing and promoting security, stability and prosperity for the Council States and the region.

The Supreme Council discussed new developments in the common peace process from all angles. His Majesty and Their Highnesses also discussed bilateral relations between their States and reviewed in their consultations the fraternal efforts made to finalize bilateral issues pending between their countries. They expressed satisfaction at the level of comprehension that prevailed at these deliberations and decided that efforts to assist in the finding of appropriate solutions should be redoubled. The Council took cognizance of the reports and recommendations submitted by the Ministerial Council and the Ministerial Committees and considered ways of promoting cooperation and cohesion between member States in a way that would reflect the depth of fraternal bonds and a firm conviction of a joint destiny and a single goal. At the same time, it affirmed its concern that steps should be taken to achieve the objectives set by the Council's charter in a way that met the aspirations of the leaders and citizens of Council States for consolidation of the bases of security and stability and continuation of the process of development and prosperity, with guidance in this regard from the lofty speech delivered by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman at the opening meeting of this session.

Iraq's implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression

The Supreme Council discussed Iraq's implementation of Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait and expressed its deep concern that the Iraqi Government was continuing to fail to implement in full some fundamental aspects of its international obligations under those resolutions and its dubious conduct with regard to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, which constituted a violation of the terms of the cease-fire laid down in resolution 687 (1991) and other relevant United Nations resolutions. The Council noted with deep regret that the policy of procrastination being followed by the Iraqi Government with regard to implementation of Security Council resolutions in past years had led to the destruction of the Iraqi human, economic and social structure, paralysed Iraq's potentials and its vital role in the region and made the suffering of the Iraqi people a means of pressure for the lifting of the embargo from that regime without commitment to implementation of Security Council resolutions, some of which accorded extreme importance to the living and health conditions of the people of Iraq and which the Iraqi regime had rejected on the flimsiest of pretexts, thus preventing the Iraqi people from meeting its needs from its natural resources.

Accordingly, the Supreme Council placed on Iraq the full responsibility for the grave deterioration of the living and health conditions of Iraqi citizens and expressed the sympathy of the Gulf Cooperation Council States with the

fraternal Iraqi people in its current ordeal. In this regard, the Supreme Council called on the Iraqi Government to implement Security Council resolutions 706 (1991), 712 (1991) and 986 (1995), which set forth the appropriate and available mechanisms for alleviating the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people.

In this context, the Council considered the evidence of events in Iraq and the disturbing information revealed since August to the United Nations Special Commission concerning the dangerous dimensions of Iraqi armament programmes in the nuclear, chemical, bacterial and missile fields and the Iraqi Government's admission to that effect after four years of prevarications and attempts to erase and distort the facts. The Council expressed its deep regret that the Government of Iraq was continuing to produce bacteriological weapons of a pestilential nature to inflict overwhelming damage on Iraq itself and on the region as a whole, in addition to its production of chemical and radioactive weapons that were no less dangerous and destructive. The Supreme Council stressed the importance of intensifying the efforts of the United Nations Special Commission by developing its monitoring apparatus so as to ensure control over all those types of weapons and their components and their swift elimination. In this context, the Council expressed the readiness of Council States to continue participation in the provision of financial and political support for the work of the Commission. It also called on the States of the world to support those efforts materially and politically in order to guarantee the continuation of the Commission's work and its success in the tasks assigned to it. That was a part of the genuine responsibilities of the international community for the implementation of Security Council resolutions and of its concern for the elimination of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, as a means of arriving at a Middle East region entirely free of such weapons. The Supreme Council emphasized that the Iraqi Government must cooperate absolutely with the Commission and comply fully with its obligations under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

To that end, the Supreme Council called on the international community to maintain the pressures on the Iraqi Government until Iraq gave proof of its peaceful intentions and completed implementation of the provisions of resolution 687 (1991) and other pertinent United Nations resolutions, in particular those relating to the release of prisoners and detainees, both Kuwaitis and nationals of other States, whose extended suffering was in blatant violation of resolution 687 (1991) and the third and fourth Geneva Conventions. Iraq must refrain from any act of aggression or provocation, in accordance with resolution 949 (1994), and must comply with the compensations mechanism and restore all stolen property.

The Supreme Council affirmed its total rejection of any policies aimed at impairment of the territorial integrity of Iraq or its partition and expressed its wholehearted concern for the territorial unity and sovereignty of Iraq.

Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the islands question

The Supreme Council also studied new developments between the Gulf Cooperation Council States and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the question of its occupation of the three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and

Abu Musa belonging to the United Arab Emirates. It expressed its extreme regret that the Islamic Republic of Iran had failed to respond to the repeated earnest and sincere invitations from the United Arab Emirates to arrive at a peaceful solution of this question.

It also expressed its concern that the Iranian Government was continuing to take measures aimed at consolidating its occupation of the three islands, which constituted a violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates that conflicted with the principles of international law and the charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the principles of good-neighbourliness and respect for sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the States of the region.

The Council reiterated its firm stand of support for the United Arab Emirates and reaffirmed its sovereignty over its islands, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and its full and absolute support for all peaceful measures and means that it might adopt in order to restore its sovereignty over the three islands. The Council invited Iran to accept referral of the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

The Middle East peace process

The Council States, proceeding from their positive positions in support of the Middle East peace process reaffirmed that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace was the basis of security, stability and prosperity in the region and reciprocity of interests among its States, with eradication of the factors of violence, elimination of the causes of extremism and inculcation of the values of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and cultural cooperation among the peoples.

To this end, with the reaffirmation of the firm positions of Council States on this matter, it was essential that the just and legitimate demands of all parties should be met, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace, including:

- Full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Jerusalem;

- Enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its full legitimate national rights, including its right to establish its independent State on its national soil;

- Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the boundary line that existed on 4 June 1967;

- Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the restoration of all occupied territory to Lebanese sovereignty in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978).

The Gulf Cooperation Council reiterated its welcome of the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel and welcomed the signature of the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as a further step on the way to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

The Council States, commending the constructive and effective efforts undertaken by the co-sponsors of the Peace Conference and, in particular, the personal role being played by United States President Mr. William Clinton, affirmed their readiness to support any possible effort to accelerate the achievement of a final settlement between the parties to the Middle East peace process in accordance with United Nations resolutions and on the basis of the Madrid Conference.

The Supreme Council also took cognizance of an evaluation of the conclusions of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit Conference, held recently in Amman, and expressed its hope that those conferences would help to support and consolidate the Middle East peace process.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Supreme Council reviewed the situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and welcomed the fact that on 21 November 1995, the parties to the conflict had been able to sign the Dayton agreement on peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council expressed satisfaction at the provisions of the agreement reaffirming the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council placed on record its appreciation for the efforts made by the United States and the States of the European Union to arrive at this agreement and called on the international community to provide all possible assistance to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its economic and social development plans.

The phenomenon of extremism, violence and terrorism

The Supreme Council discussed the phenomenon of extremism, violence and terrorism and noted with deep concern the increase in extremist tendencies and acts of violence and terrorism, which had become a world-wide concern. The Council condemned all types and forms of acts of terrorism aimed at spreading anarchy, fear and tension and killing the innocent and expressed its vehement rejection of this phenomenon, which is categorically opposed to the principles of Islam and which has no part in Islam.

The Council affirmed that its member States fully supported Bahrain in the measures that it was taking to consolidate its security and stability, on the basis of the principle of a single common destiny for Council States and the comprehensive nature of their security.

The Supreme Council vehemently condemned the iniquitous criminal act that occurred in Riyadh, killing innocent persons as well as leaving a number of wounded and alarming the faithful. The Council condemned those treacherous criminal acts that aimed at prejudicing the great achievements, progress and development achieved by Saudi Arabia, which had become a cynosure. The Council was fully convinced of the cohesive power of this peaceful Islamic society and of the capacity of the security forces to deal with those criminals, who would not escape the hand of justice. The Council reiterated that all acts of anarchy

and sabotage from whatever source and wherever they may occur will not affect the security of Council States or impair their stability.

The Supreme Council underscored the need to intensify communications between member States and affirmed its desire for and insistence on the expenditure of all possible efforts to counter such devastating terrorist practices by promoting and consolidating coordination and cooperation among the various security, information and education organs for the purpose of protecting the Gulf community from the effects of such alien phenomena and the establishment of joint plans and strategies to counter and thwart their conspiratorial plans.

The Supreme Council also condemned the tendentious propaganda campaigns - along with the sources from which they emanated - directed against one of its States for the purpose of promoting disturbance, acts of terrorism and sabotage there and impairing its security and stability. It expressed its support for all measures and steps being taken in the Arab and the international context to counter and eradicate terrorism.

Elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East

The Supreme Council discussed the question of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East generally, including the Gulf region, in the light of the grave and alarming information available on Iraqi armament programmes, on the one hand, and data received from another source on the existence of other programmes for the acquisition and development of weapons of mass destruction in the Gulf region. It expressed deep concern at the threat presented by those programmes to security and peace in the Gulf region and in the Middle East as a whole.

The Supreme Council called for the establishment of the Middle East, including the Gulf region, as a zone free from all types of weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, chemical or biological, and the means of their delivery and affirmed the importance of viewing the process of the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction as one step towards ridding the region as a whole of such weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the letter and the spirit of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and the contents of the communiqué issued by its summit meeting on 21 January 1992. It called for the adoption of appropriate measures for action to prevent the proliferation of technology relating to research on and production of weapons of mass destruction in the Gulf region and for an endeavour to promote and enhance the effectiveness of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the light of studies derived from the process of the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and the future ongoing monitoring machinery established under Security Council resolution 715 (1991).

Areas of cooperation and coordination

Military matters. The Supreme Council took cognizance of the conclusions of the fourteenth meeting of Their Highnesses and Their Excellencies the Ministers of Defence of the Council States, held in Bahrain in November 1995, and approved the recommendations submitted, which were aimed at continuation of the

implementation of projects for raising the collective defence capability of the Council States and proceeding with the development of an effective deterrent force.

Security. The Supreme Council studied new developments in security cooperation and took cognizance of the recommendations of the third extraordinary meeting of Ministers of the Interior, held in Bahrain in April 1995, and the fourteenth meeting of Ministers of the Interior, held in Bahrain in November 1995, and expressed satisfaction at the conclusions of the two above-mentioned meetings. In this context, the Council stressed the importance of promoting and intensifying cooperation and coordination between member States in the area of security because of its importance in ensuring security and stability for continuation of the economic development and prosperity process enjoyed by Council States. It also underscored the importance of activating the Security Agreement between the Gulf Cooperation States, following the completion of ratification.

The Council took cognizance of the conclusions of the Ministers for the Interior concerning the use of identity cards as travel documents, in view of the importance of this matter for the promotion of relations and contacts between the peoples of the Council States. The Supreme Council welcomed the arrival by member States bilaterally at arrangements for the use of identity cards as travel documents, expressing the hope that more such bilateral arrangements would be made and looking ahead to the time when all Council States would be able to complete the necessary procedures for the issuance of identity cards to all their citizens, in preparation for the general application of this constructive step to all Gulf Cooperation Council States.

Economic matters. The Supreme Council approved the recommendations relating to the electrical link-up between Council States arrived at by the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation and directed that they should be put into implementation. It also approved coordination of the necessary measures for the implementation in member States of the resolutions of the Supreme Council in economic areas. In affirmation of the principle of economic citizenship, the Council decided to allow citizens of the Council States to carry on economic activity in a number of educational areas in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in Council States.

The Supreme Council took note of the steps taken for the implementation of its decision at its fifteenth session concerning the development of economic cooperation within the framework of implementation of the Economic Agreement and approved the recommendations of the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation concerning the development of banking in Council States and increasing its competitivity at the regional and international levels, which would, in principle, permit national banks to open branches in Council States and effect a linkage between national automated banking networks in Council States.

The Supreme Council approved the propositions, policies, plans and measures for facilitating the employment and transfer of national manpower and ongoing absorption of its increase.

With regard to a unified customs tariff, the Supreme Council instructed the Ministerial Council and the Committee on Financial and Economic Cooperation to convene a joint meeting during the first half of 1996 in order to agree on a project for a unified customs tariff for Council States, in the context of a comprehensive review of the flexibility permitting arrival at the desired consensus that is afforded by the Economic Agreement.

The Supreme Council endorsed the continuation of work on the current rules for engagement in the retail trade by Council State citizens and also the retention of the current rules relating to permission for production companies and units in Council States to open representational trade offices in member States.

The Supreme Council appraised the economic situation in the Gulf States and expressed satisfaction at the perceptible improvement in Gulf State economies. It commended the considerable role being played by the private sector in the various areas of economic activity.

The Council noted with satisfaction the recent agreement concluded under the auspices of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on extension of the current production ceiling, expressed the hope that all OPEC members would refrain from exceeding the set quotas and urged non-OPEC producers to cooperate with OPEC producers so as to strengthen oil prices and improve oil market conditions and stability.

The Supreme Council took cognizance of the report on the progress of negotiations with States and international economic groups and instructed the Ministerial Council to proceed further with them in the service of the basic economic interests of Council States.

Information. The Supreme Council took cognizance of the conclusions of the seventh meeting of Information Ministers, held in Bahrain in October 1995 and approved the recommendations submitted concerning the intensification of joint information activities between the information organs of Council States.

Legal matters. The Supreme Council approved the Agreement on Enforcement of Legal Judgements, Writs and Letters Rogatory, with a view to promoting legal cooperation between the competent organs of member States.

The Supreme Council approved the appointment of Professor Jamil Ibrahim al-Hegelan (Saudi Arabia) to the post of Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as successor to His Excellency Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan al-Qasimi, whose term had expired.

The Supreme Council, while wishing His Excellency the new Secretary-General success in his functions on the course to global Gulf cooperation, at the same time expressed its deep appreciation for the great and worthy efforts made by His Excellency Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan al-Qasimi during his term of office as Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council. Those efforts had had a tremendous impact on the promotion of bonds of cooperation between Council States in all fields.

The Supreme Council expressed its gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency to the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, Dr. Abdullah Ibrahim al-Kuwaiz, for his valuable efforts and effective contribution to the Council's economic progress during his term of office with the Cooperation Council.

The Supreme Council expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said of Oman and to the Government and people of the Sultanate of Oman for the gracious hospitality and sincere sentiments of brotherhood with which the leaders of the Cooperation Council were received and commended the distinguished arrangements and important role played by His Majesty as President of the current session of the Supreme Council and his excellent conduct of the meetings, which had a major impact on arrival at the important and fruitful conclusions achieved at this session.

Muscat, 6 December 1995.